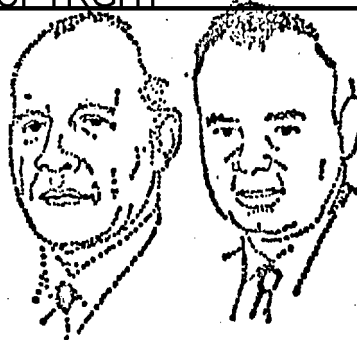


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ALLEN-SCOTT REPORT

Inside Washington

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CPYRGHT



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New Impetus for Blockade

WASHINGTON—Hanoi's cold-blooded threat to put captured American pilots on trial as war criminals is giving new life to a U.S. military proposal for a naval blockade of North Viet Nam.

Supported by a powerful group in Congress, the Joint Chiefs of Staff are urging President Johnson to use this powerful weapon as a countermeasure to meet this new Communist effort at blackmail.

In a series of backstage meetings at the White House, they are telling the President that a drum-tight blockade will strike at the source of this threat by cutting off the flow of Russian-made anti-aircraft guns, ammunition, and missiles into North Viet Nam.

Without a steady supply of replacement parts and ammunition for these Soviet anti-aircraft guns and fuel to run the radar generators, these military advisers say, the North Vietnamese air defenses will begin to fall apart, greatly reducing the chances of U.S. pilots being shot down and captured.

HEAVY PRESSURE

In presenting their case for strong countermeasures, the Joint Chiefs of Staff are stressing that a naval blockade would put heavy economic pressure on the shaky Hanoi regime, since nearly 60 per cent of all North Vietnamese imports come by sea.

It is these military advisers' estimate that a six to eight months quarantine of North Viet Nam could bring Ho Chi Minh to terms or soften up his Red government sufficiently so it could later be toppled by saturation bombing of industrial, communication, and transportation

centers near Hanoi and Hanoi.

Since the start of U.S. raids on North Viet Nam, these strategic targets have been off-limits for U.S. bombers.

HITTING ENEMY

Several of the lawmakers backing the blockade proposal of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are seeking even tougher action, including economic pressure directly on Moscow.

Sen. Thomas Dodd, D-Conn., vice-chairman of the Senate internal security subcommittee and a frequent visitor at the White House, wants the President to bar all trade and sales of U.S. farm commodities to Russia until the present Soviet leaders agree to end arms shipments to the North Vietnamese.

With backing from Speaker John McCormack, D-Mass., and Rep. Michael Felghan, D-Ohio, Sen. Dodd is urging the President to use the same tactics on Russia that the State Department employed against India and Pakistan to force their cease-fire.

He points out that the decisive factor in bringing about a cease-fire between those two non-Communist nations was the threat of stopping economic assistance, including U.S. food, stating:

SAME TACTICS

"There is no doubt that it was our economic pressure on Pakistan and India that brought at least a temporary end to their fighting. Why shouldn't we use similar tactics to make the Russians stop shipping arms to the North Vietnamese? We could cut off all trade and bar all sales of surplus wheat until the Soviet government agrees to use food should be used as peace

weapons."

In reply to these congressional and military advisers, President Johnson is taking the position that their proposals must be thoroughly studied by Secretary of State Rusk and Presidential Assistant McGeorge Bundy before he can make a final decision.

Although he rejected similar proposals in the past on the adverse recommendation of Rusk and Bundy, neither the Joint Chiefs of Staff nor the lawmakers are taking this latest presidential move as an indication that he will do so again.

They are encouraged by reports that the President now goes out of his way to tell White House callers of his deep concern for the fate of captured U.S. airmen. In one instance, he pounded his desk saying: "Something drastic must be done soon to bring those madmen in Hanoi to their senses."

BATTLE REPORT

A very recent "situation report" from Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of all U.S. forces in Viet Nam, could influence the President's final decision if it reaches his desk.

Prepared for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, it recommends that a naval blockade be authorized to cut off the growing flow of Russian-made weapons into North Viet Nam by sea. Part of an over-all program to increase the security of U.S. forces in South Viet Nam, this report warns of the North Vietnamese growing capability to shoot down U.S. planes both at high and low levels.

The document makes vividly clear that each Soviet weapon

that reaches North Viet Nam, regardless of whether it is an anti-aircraft gun or a sniper's rifle, will be used to kill U.S. or South Vietnamese soldiers.

The Westmoreland report carries a blunt reminder that the denial of these arms to the North Vietnamese at their port of entry will not only save American and South Vietnamese lives but might well turn the tide of battle.

The next move is up to President Johnson.

NOTE: The boxed portion of this article did not appear in the 7 October issue of the NORTHERN VIRGINIA SUN.